

[6th February 1925]

Acts.*Madras Estates Land Act (Amendment) Bill, etc.*

* 163 Q.—MR. P. PEDDIRAJU: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state when the Bill to amend the Madras Estates Land Act and the Land Revenue Bill are likely to be introduced in the Council and whether they will be introduced in the present session of the Council?

A.—It is not possible to say definitely when the Bill to amend the Madras Estates Land Act will be introduced. Regarding the Land Revenue Bill, the hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 15.

MR. P. ANJANEYULU:—“As far as the first part of the answer is concerned, may I know at what stage the matter now is and how often the Select Committee has met?”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“The Select Committee met once and directed that certain materials be gathered for the purpose of deciding one important question, namely, the jurisdiction of Civil Courts. It met again, and I placed all the materials before it, and it came to the conclusion that the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts should be restored in regard to certain sections. Practically that branch of the work is over. Then we have proceeded to discuss the other amendments.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasaya:—“Is it a fact that on the 17th December the Committee sat only for a few hours though it was called to meet for four days consecutively?”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“That depends on the decision of the Committee. If the Committee wants to adjourn, we have to adjourn. I have never asked them to adjourn. If they thought that they would do useful work after certain materials were collected and wanted to adjourn, I was entirely in their hands.”

MR. M. RATNASWAMI:—“May I know when and how long they will meet; because it is a question of public money?”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“The Select Committee are composed of Members of this House and other responsible persons outside it, and they have decided on a certain course having regard to the work before them. I am bound by what they say. I am only one of the Members of the Select Committee. If they waste public money, there are other ways by which this Council can express their disapproval of the waste of public money.”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“May I know who is responsible for the adjournment of the Committee?”

MR. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I ask whether it is not, instead of being a Select Committee, an *ad hoc* body composed partly of Members of this House and partly of those outside, whether the hon. the Law Member will convey to the Committee the sense of the House that, having regard to the fact that large sums of money are spent in travelling allowances, it would not be fair either to themselves or to this House that they should meet only for a few hours on a certain day and then adjourn?”

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I shall take note of the feelings expressed by particular Members of this hon. House."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"Will you kindly convey our views to the members of the particular Committee?"

Civil Justice.

Arrears in the High Court.

* 164 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the reasons why he has not yet issued any communiqué regarding the state of arrears in the High Court necessitating the increase in its strength and whether the Government propose to issue any such communiqué and if so, when?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 1354 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in December 1924.

Criminal Justice.

Disposal of cases by the Additional Sessions Judge for the Agency Tracts.

* 165 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member 11-30 a.m. be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cases disposed of by the Additional Sessions Judge for the Agency Tracts in 1923-24 and from April 1924 to January 1925 ;

(b) the place where he holds the sessions ;

(c) whether in addition to the sessions work any other work is done by him and if so, the nature thereof ;

(d) whether it is intended to make provision in the budget for 1925-26 for the continuance of this office ;

(e) whether the work now done by the Agency Additional Sessions Judge cannot be divided between the Sessions Judge and Assistant Sessions Judge of Vizagapatam having regard to their file ;

(f) whether for a few months in 1924, the Agency Additional Sessions Judge, Mr. L. H. Arndt, I.C.S., was in addition to his duties in charge of the Vizagapatam Sessions division when the Judge of that division was on leave ;

(g) the number of Sessions cases disposed of in 1923-24 and from April 1924 to December 1924 by the Sessions Judge and Assistant Sessions Judge of Vizagapatam, respectively ; and

(h) whether there is a proposal to abolish the post of the Agency Additional Sessions Judge ?

A.—(a) Statistics for these particular periods have not been collected.

(b) The Additional Sessions Judge is a touring officer and may hold his court in or near any of the Agency Sessions divisions as the convenience of the parties, witnesses and police require.

(c) He does not attend to any other work.

(d) Provision has been made for five months in 1925-26.

(e) No. It cannot be done without detriment to their other duties.

(f) Yes.

(g) There is no information.

(h) No.